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SOURCE Chemische Industrie, Vol III, No 8, 1951.

ACTIVATE NEW POLISH CHEMICAL PLANTS

The Upper Silesian Chemical Combine in Kedzierzyn (Heydebreck), damaged during the war and later dismantled by the Soviets, is being rebuilt on a large scale. More than 1,000 construction workers are being employed on the job. The nitrogen fixation plant is nearest completion and is expected to be in operation by the end of 1953. The combine will also include the following divisions: (a) a fatty acid synthesis plant, which will also manufacture a special detergent based on acid synthesis; (b) a synthetic rubber plant; (c) a plastics plant; and (d) a plant for the manufacture of solvents for paints and varnishes.

A new chemical combine for the production of synthetic organic chemical compounds is being built on the site of the former IG Farben Factory in Oswiecim. A synthetic fuel plant has already been activated, and large-scale production of high-octane gasoline should begin in a few months. The manufacture of synthetic methanol, acetates, acetaldehyde, and various intermediate products will soon begin. In addition, a plastics plant has also been activated. No details have been given as to the kind of plastics to be produced; however, a Polish report of 1950 which referred to the new factories in Oswiecim and Brzeg mentioned that in the Six-Year Plan production of phenol plastics, cellulose acetate, and caprolactam would be stepped up.

Several weeks ago, the first Polish plant for the production of sulfuric acid from anhydrite was activated in Wizow. According to recent Polish news broadcasts, the production methods of Professor J. Zawadzki were developed in collaboration with Soviet scientists. It is known, however, that the factory has been activated with the technical and scientific assistance of German chemists from the East Zone. The machines and technical equipment have all been made in Poland. Special attention has been given to modern safety devices.

According to Karol Ackerman, Deputy Minister of the Chemical Industry, other sulfuric acid plants will be opened within the Six-Year Plan near the gypsum deposits in Kielce since the expansion of the sulfuric acid industry based on pyrites is not possible.

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